

Australian ZOOLOGIST

GENERAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NSW

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No. NBP 2752

Volume 22, No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1985

Editorial Comment

This is the first issue of our revised publication which is intended to blend the best of the *Australian Zoologist* and *Koolewong*. The name keeps on, but the *Australian Zoologist* as an irregular journal of specialist research papers has come to an end. At its inception in 1914, it was a pioneering and sorely needed mechanism for publication of Australian zoological research. But, with the dramatic increase in Australian scientific effort and output in recent years, other organizations have taken on the role of publisher. In particular the Commonwealth Government, with CSIRO journals such as *Australian Journal of Zoology* and *Australian Journal of Biological Sciences*, has had the resources to insure regular production and world-wide distribution of scientific journals. There has also been a rise in the number of specialist journals within the broader field of Zoology — such as *Australian Mammalogy* started by the Australian Mammal Society in 1972. There is still a need for publication of papers that cross zoological specialities, such as faunal surveys and historical papers, and the new format *Australian Zoologist* will continue to publish such papers as fully refereed "Scientific Reports". However, such papers will need to be well written and of interest to general zoologists and naturalists. The scientific report in this issue is a good example of such a paper. It is a basic research paper in that it presents new, unpublished data (two newly discovered letters to John Gould and a revision of a third). It is also of great

interest to everyone with an interest in Australian zoology, thanks in particular to well written and comprehensive introduction.

Koolewong as a title finished with the June issue. One of its major aims, to provide items of interest to those members whose only interest in the RZS was to obtain a free pass to Taronga Zoo, has been overtaken by events. Hopefully, the Australian Association of Zoo Friends has provided a home for the "Zoo buffs", and publications of that Association will no doubt concentrate on Zoos foreign and domestic. The *Australian Zoologist* may still print the occasional item about Zoos or travel, but only if it contains material relating to Zoology in the wider sense.

The *Australian Zoologist* will attempt to achieve that which has so notably been achieved by overseas journals such as "Science" and "Nature" — a blend of scientific research reports with news, comment and feature articles. This, I hope, will be that last editorial on mundane matters. Hopefully, future editorials will be signed comments on topical zoological and conservation matters. Such comments, as well as news items, can be submitted by anyone, and the participation of members and sections of the Society is necessary for the success of the journal.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see a notice calling for members to help in BAT WATCH. I
continued on p.4

Opinions expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions held either by the editor or the Council of the RZS.

Editorial Comment — con't

think this a very important activity of the RZS. There is much current interest in Flying Foxes, arising from their recent *removal* from the protected list in Queensland and the controversy over the colony in the Sydney suburb of Gordon. Moves to conserve them and to establish reserves in NSW require information on their numbers, location and movements. At present what is often presented as "facts" about these mammals in NSW is really a collection of unsubstantiated folklore and concepts derived from incomplete studies on Flying Foxes in Queensland. The RZS, with its statewide membership, can make a positive contribution to Flying Fox conservation by gathering data and for this reason Bat Watch is being established. In the immediate future Bat Watch will be concerned with Flying Fox surveys, but as the name implies there is scope and need for future work on the many other bats in NSW. Our next issue will contain more information on Flying Foxes. Meanwhile, join Bat Watch!

M. L. Augee,
Editor-in-Chief.

NEW ZEALAND JOURNALS

New Zealand

NZ Journal of Agricultural Research

NZ Journal of Experimental Agriculture

NZ Journal of Botany

NZ Journal of Geology and Geophysics

NZ Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research

NZ Journal of Technology (replaces NZ Journal of Science)

NZ Journal of Zoology

The DSIR (New Zealand's version of CSIRO) offers the following journal subscriptions to members of the RZS at a discount rate (\$A28 vs \$A43). All journals listed are quarterly, and subscription price includes surface post.

Orders for 1986 subscriptions must be received by the ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY Secretary by 14 October 1985. These special rates apply only to subscriptions made in bulk by the RZS on behalf of its members. Cheques should be made payable to the Royal Zoological Society.



Bettongia rufescens, Rat Kangaroo Rufous. The painting is from Gould's "The Mammals of Australia" Vol. II, 1863.